

EISENHOWER BARS ANY CRISIS ABROAD AS ELECTION ISSUE

He Calls Current Foreign
Policy an Improper Topic
for Partisan Attack

OPPOSES A CUBA DEBATE

But Defends Discussion of
Matters 'That Are History'
and Long-Range Trends

By The Associated Press

WASHINGTON, Oct. 21

Former President Dwight D. Eisenhower ruled out current foreign policy today as a proper campaign issue. He said those who attacked President Kennedy's handling of international crises weakened and divided the nation.

At the same time General Eisenhower stoutly defended the Republican party's right to discuss policy matters "that are history" and "the general long-range attitude of our nation toward its whole position in the world."

He expressed his views in a taped television interview on the American Broadcasting Company's "Politics '62" program.

His statements seemed to conflict with Republican pronouncements proclaiming Cuba the top issue of the Congressional elections Nov. 6 and with a speech he delivered in Boston last Monday.

A Reference to Cuba

In that speech General Eisenhower, in an obvious reference to the erection of the Berlin wall and the Communist build-up in Cuba, defended his Administration, saying:

"In those eight years, we lost no inch of ground to tyranny. We witnessed no abdication of responsibility. We accepted no compromise of principle, a word of withdrawal from principle. No walls were built. No threatening foreign bases were established."

He also sharply criticized Mr. Kennedy as conducting "a dreary foreign policy—too sad to talk about."

In the television interview the former President said that it was the Democrats who first brought up foreign policy, accusing the Republican Administration of having drifted for eight years, and that he had responded to this in his Boston remarks.

Sees Duty to Discuss History

"I do not believe we should fail to discuss things that are history," he said. "A loyal opposition has got a perfect right to discuss it without rancor."

He also included the long-range trend of policy as open to political discussion, but he said the President's immediate handling of foreign affairs was not a legitimate topic.

Any pronouncements he may make respecting an impending crisis is almost sacrosanct as far as I am concerned," General Eisenhower said. "If anyone argues with him, and the bigger the following this opponent gets, the more it has divided our country."

As for Cuba and foreign policy as campaign issues, General Eisenhower said:

"I think that probably we have heard the last of it. At least I hope so."

When asked his position on calls by some Democrats and Republicans for an immediate invasion of Cuba, he refused to comment, saying it was "none of my business."

He criticized the Kennedy Administration on domestic policy and again urged the election of more Republicans.

"I think the climate that is being established in the United States by the Federal Government is unfavorable to an expanding economy," General Eisenhower said.

More profits for business are necessary, he said, and added:

"We are spending too much, and there is a stagnation developing that I think is going to be very, very serious."

Although ruling out at Jackson current handling of foreign policy, General Eisenhower said he had found during his political speaking tours that people wanted to talk about Cuba more than about any other topic.

"The next thing, I think, is the expenditures and the expansion of the power of the Federal Government," he added.

He denied that the Republicans were against medical care for the aged — a campaign theme being stressed by the Democrats.

brand which we think is bad," he said.

He objected particularly to financing such health insurance with Social Security taxes.

The former President summed up his differences with President Kennedy on domestic policy with a statement that "I am against almost everything he is for." He asserted:

"I am for a broad program of increasing opportunity, increasing jobs through, as I say, making it possible to have profits."

"I do not want to see it done by some kind of a political ledgermain in Washington."

"So I am very much against a good many of his programs, so too far."